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REPORT



TO THE

BELLINGHAM RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

For the Year 1960

BY



J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

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STAFF :

Medical Officer of Health :

J. M. McEWAN, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector :

S. CLOUGH, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector :

E. B. MILLER, C.R.S.H.

Mrs. J. FULLERTON - *Clerk/Typist.*

OFFICES :

COUNCIL OFFICES, BELLINGHAM

HEXHAM - NORTHUMBERLAND

Telephone - Bellingham 239

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of Bellingham :

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1960.

There is again little to report on the circumstances of the district, which changes little from year to year. The population is virtually stationary and seems likely to remain so. Even though this is a very large and attractive Rural District, poor communications and distance from large towns limit potential newcomers who might travel to work from houses in the country, and render difficult the attraction of new industry. Basically this remains an unspoilt rural district with a country way of life, but it is by no means a backward rural district as successive Annual Reports have shown. The Council have for many years followed a plan of progressive improvements in environmental amenities, and deserve credit for their achievements.

In 1959, an exceptional year, there were twice as many births as deaths, and the death rate was remarkably low. The balance has been somewhat reduced in 1960, as is to be expected, but again births considerably outnumbered deaths and the death rate is below the national average. Three deaths in infancy give a rather high infant mortality rate, but deaths generally have been of elderly people and largely due to diseases of the heart and circulation.

Only seven cases of infectious disease were notified and these were of measles and whooping cough. One case of pulmonary tuberculosis was notified in a middle-aged man, the type of case that will continue to occur for some time. Other infections were absent, and there were no deaths from such disease.

The Council have resumed house building in several communities. Four Dorran houses were built at Mouseyhaugh to replace houses destroyed by fire, and were available much more quickly than traditional houses. The new houses at Otterburn are proceeding and will house 21 families. The special needs of old people have been apparent for some time. Four bungalows at Wark were begun during the year, and more are planned for Bellingham. Improvement grants continue to prolong the life of older properties and are of particular value in a Rural District.

During the year the water supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity. Regular samples are taken by the water undertakers and the results have been satisfactory throughout. Private and proposed supplies are investigated by the local authority, and 35 samples were taken during the year : 13 were satisfactory. The information required about the distribution of public water mains is given for such period in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

The district is well served with piped water. When the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company became the statutory water undertakers under the Order of 1950, it was estimated that 75% of properties would be supplied. The original scheme has been completed for some years and additional properties have been brought in as need arose. Some 80% of properties now have a mains supply and the limiting factors to further expansion are the isolation of the remaining groups of properties and the high resulting cost. This is well shown by the two most recent schemes considered. The Council agreed to a scheme for 16 houses at Knowesgate at a cost of £7,300, largely because a substantial contribution was made by the owners of the properties. A scheme for Carrycoats will cost £12,700 for 9 properties and even with considerable assistance from the owners may prove too costly to be accepted. It seems inevitable that private supplies will continue for the remaining properties not included in the various schemes.

The Otterburn sewerage and sewage disposal scheme, though costly, is very necessary, and work is now proceeding. The Kirkwhelpington scheme is under consideration, as is the extension of the West Woodburn scheme to take in the properties south of the river. Only a few small schemes remain after these to ensure that any sizeable community has modern treatment facilities and no scheme can be classed as urgent.

The Council have given a great deal of thought to the village of Ridsdale. Built many years ago by Armstrong-Whitworth for workers on the gun testing range, it now consists of 54 houses in private ownership and mostly owner-occupied. Water has been taken to the village, but there is no adequate means of sewage disposal, and the poor state of repair of many of the houses raises the question of whether expenditure on sewers and a treatment works would be

justified. If nothing is done the houses will gradually decay, and the Council have decided to plan works and encourage improvement in the properties. The final decision may well be made at the local inquiry.

I again record with pleasure the interest taken by the Chairman and Councillors in the work of the Department. I am grateful too to the staff of the Health Department for their capable services, and to the Clerk and other officials for their co-operation and help.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. M. McEWAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population

The population of the Rural District, estimated at 30th June, 1960, was 5,420. This is an increase of 30 on the previous year, and the trend over the last few years for a gradual increase in population is maintained.

Birth Rate

There were 96 live births during 1960, 4 being illegitimate, and when an adjustment factor is applied this gives a birth rate of 19.8 per 1,000 population, while the figure for England and Wales is 17.1 per 1,000. There were 2 still births during the year, giving a rate of 18.2 per 1,000 total births. The National figure is 19.7 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality

3 infants died under the age of one year. This gives an infant death rate of 27.9 per 1,000 births. The figure for England and Wales is 21.7 per 1,000.

Death Rate

A total of 59 deaths occurred during 1960, compared with 40 in 1959. This gives a crude death rate of 10.8 per 1,000 population. The figure for England and Wales is 11.5 per 1,000.

To Summarise :

Live births	..	..	..	..	..	96
Live births per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	19.8
Still births	..	..	..	..	..	2
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	18.2
Total live and still births	..	..	..	..	..	98
Infant deaths	..	..	..	..	..	3
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	27.9
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	..	..	..	..	—
legitimate	..	..	..	..	..	27.9
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births	—	..	..	..	..	—
illegitimate	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Illegitimate live births per cent of total births	..	..	..	..	..	3.7
Maternal deaths	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still	..	..	..	..	..	..
births	..	..	..	..	..	Nil.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Measles

5 cases were notified.

Whooping Cough

Two cases were notified.

Tuberculosis

One case was notified during 1960.

Poliomyelitis and Diphtheria

There were no notifications during 1960, and all other infectious diseases were absent.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The area of the Bellingham Rural District is 246,645 acres.

The estimated population for 1960 is 5,420.

The number of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1960, was 1,697, of which 161 are owned by the Local Authority.

The sum represented by a penny rate is £318.

The rateable value is £78,990.

HEALTH SERVICES

Laboratory Facilities

Facilities in the area continue to be provided by the Public Health Laboratory in Newcastle General Hospital, which gives an efficient service.

Ambulance Service

The local ambulance service is provided for the County Council by the Red Cross, and a satisfactory service is maintained. In addition to the ambulance, a car service is available for suitable cases and is of considerable value in such a large district. Since the passenger train service was discontinued much extra mileage has been run to allow patients to keep hospital appointments and to allow mothers and children to attend clinics, but the use of the service appears to have stabilised now.

Home Nursing and Health Visiting

The district nurses are all provided with cars and their nursing work continues to be excellent. In spite of the difficulty of arranging for suitable help in a country district, the Home Help Service run by the County Council continues to function satisfactorily. The County Health Visitors work in harmony with the General Practitioners in the area and do much valuable work.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Five Maternity and Child Welfare Centres, staffed by the County Council, operate at Bellingham, Otterburn, Byrness, Kielder and Wark. Immunisation against diphtheria is carried out at these centres or is done by the General Practitioner, while all vaccination is carried out by the General Practitioners. The demand for poliomyelitis vaccination has been met, in the age groups eligible, by special sessions at Bellingham, as well as by vaccination at schools, clinics and the surgeries of family doctors.

TABLE I.

The following table shows the principal statistics for the years 1957-1960.

Year	Live Birth Rate per 1,000 Population	General Death Rate per 1,000 Population	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births
1957	22.90	11.25	Nil.
1958	18.22	8.01	Nil.
1959	21.61	7.42	9.6
1960	19.8	10.8	27.9

ANNUAL RETURNS OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS, YEAR 1960.

Food Poisoning Notifications Returned to Registrar General

1ST QTR.	2ND QTR.	3RD QTR.	4TH QTR.	TOTAL
Outbreaks due to identified agents	Nil.
Outbreaks of undiscovered cause	Nil.
Single Cases :				
Agent identified	Nil.
Unknown cause	Nil.
Total				Nil.

TABLE II.

Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1960 :—

Notifiable Disease	Males.	Females	Totals
Scarlet Fever.. ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	2	—	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	2	3	5
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Acute Pneumonia	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Enteric or Typhoid Fevers	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—
Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Totals	5	3	8

TABLE III.
TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1960 :—

Age Periods	New Cases				Nett Deaths in Bellingham Rural District			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table classifies deaths according to their age groups :—

Age Groups			Males	Females	Totals.
0— I	..	..	—	3	3
I— 9	..	..	—	—	—
10—19	..	..	—	—	—
20—29	..	..	I	—	I
30—39	..	..	—	—	—
40—49	..	..	I	I	2
50—59	..	..	4	I	5
60—69	..	..	II	5	16
70—79	..	..	10	6	16
80—89	..	..	9	6	15
90—99	..	..	I	—	I
Totals			37	22	59

INFANT MORTALITY

during year ending 31st December, 1960

27.9 per 1,000 live Births

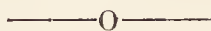
ANALYSIS OF DEATHS BY CAUSES

According to Registrar General's Classification.

Causes of Death	1959		1960	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ..	—	—	—	—
2. Tuberculosis, other ..	—	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ..	—	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ..	—	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ..	—	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant Neoplasm— Stomach ..	—	—	—	—
11. do. Lung and Bronchus ..	—	—	2	—
12. do. Breast ..	—	1	—	2
13. do. Uterus ..	—	—	—	—
14. Other malignant and Lymphatic neoplasms ..	2	3	4	2
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	—	—	—	—
16. Diabetes	—	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	3	4	9	5
18. Coronary Disease, Angina..	7	4	5	5
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	—	—	1
20. Other heart disease ..	3	1	8	3
21. Other circulatory disease ..	1	2	1	—
22. Influenza	—	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	—	—	—	—
24. Bronchitis	2	1	1	1
25. Other diseases of respira- tory system	—	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach & duo- denum	2	—	2	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarr- hoea	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	—	1	—	—
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	—	—	—	—
30. Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations..	—	—	—	1
32. Other defined and ill- defined diseases ..	1	1	3	1
33. Motor Vehicle accidents ..	1	—	1	—
34. All other accidents.. ..	—	—	1	1
35. Suicide	—	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—
	22	18	37	22
	40		59	

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1960.



Emphasis on the provision of basic services of water and works of sewerage and sewage disposal by the Local Authority has provided solid foundation upon which the operations of the Department can be built. There follows a summary of the progress which has been achieved during the year under review.

WATER

Steady progress is again recorded in the provision of new private water supplies, where it would be uneconomical to link up with the main supply of the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company. This in large measure is assisted by grant aid received from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Improvement Grants through the Local Authority.

New private supplies during the year : 12.

Number of dwellings supplied from public mains (Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company) is as under :

Parish	No. of Properties	Population
Bellingham	313	1,096
Tarset	48	168
Falstone	30	105
Wark	175	613
Otterburn	73	256
Rochester (including Byrness)	63	222
Woodburn	125	419
Kirkwhelpington	40	140
Birtley	33	116
Forestry Commission private supply to :		
Kielder	112	392
British Railways private supply to :		
Redesmouth	12	41

Samples

This is referred to in the Medical Officer of Health's section. Where analyses have proved unsatisfactory, follow-up samples have been taken and technical advice given on problems arising from collection and storage of private sources of supply. Again mention is made of the splendid co-operation which exists between Dr. A. T. Palin, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C., Chief Chemist, Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company, which leads to excellent collating of results and field work.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The local authority has approached this problem in a realistic manner. There is absolutely no doubt that a vital factor to stabilise and stem the drift of population from the countryside is to ensure the provision of basic services, subject to reasonable cost.

In a scattered area of 380 square miles, it is a matter of pride that it can be recorded the main settlement groups have works of sewerage and sewage disposal :

Local	Bellingham	{	In Operation
	Woodburn		
	Wark		
	Birtley		
Authority	Otterburn	—	Contract in progress
	Kirkwhelpington		Scheme approved, Tenders being prepared
	Ridsdale	—	Scheme in course of preparation.
Forestry Commission	Kielder	{	In Operation
	Butteryhaugh		
	Stonehaugh		
	Byrness		

Lewisburn Camping Site has been under consideration, its popularity proving the existing means of sanitation inadequate. Joint consultations have taken place between the Forestry Commission, Border Forest Park Committee and Local Authority and the principle approved of the preparation of a sewerage and sewage disposal scheme of modern design.

Private Septic Tanks

A further 11 treatment plants have been installed.

HOUSING

Local Authority building : Nil.

Other Housing Authority building : 1.

Private building : 7.

House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959.

Improvement — Reconditioning

18 applications for Discretionary grants and 4 applications for Standard grants were approved.

During the year, financial assistance to grant-aided schemes completed amounted to £8,692.

Hill Farming and Livestock Rearing Acts, 1946-1954.

A further 2 grants were approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Systematic cleansing of the villages and properties along the route has been maintained. The areas covered are :

Bellingham	Wark	Ridsdale
Reedsmouth	Stonehaugh	Great Bavington
Greenhaugh	Birtley	Little Bavington
Kirkharle	Falstone	Rochester
Kirkwhelpington	Kielder	Otterburn
Byrness	East Woodburn	West Woodburn

Tips. There are nine tips in the area, situate at :

Birtley	Woodburn	Knowesgate
Otterburn	Falstone	Stonehaugh
Hareshaw	Kielder	Byrness

Employees : 2 loader-drivers and 3 loaders.

Tonnage : 3,388 tons.

Costs are obviously increasing with the addition of new properties. The cost of such service is £4,590 — the highest of the local services administered by the Local Authority. To equate service with cost in a wide rural area of this type is an ever present problem where unproductive mileage cannot be avoided.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

One operator is in the employ of the Council and methods of treatment are those approved by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Treatments :

Sewers : Regular and systematic treating in Bellingham, Woodburn, Wark and Birtley.

Farms and Business Premises	..	6	
Tips	.. .. .	16	
Other properties	.. .. .	6	Total 28

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924-1954.

There are five butchers in the area — three operate slaughterhouses and two buy carcass meat. 100% meat inspection is maintained. Six slaughterman's licences have been issued.

Analysis of inspection is as under :

Bullocks	..	..	..	101	
Heifers	..	..	..	101	
Pigs	..	..	..	82	
Sheep	..	..	..	603	Total : 887

Condemned :—

BOVINE	PIGS
11 livers	1 kidney
4 part livers	
3 prs. lungs	
2 heads	

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE REPORTS.

The Reports were approved in entirety by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Appropriate representation has been made to the slaughterhouse operators to implement the schedule of works necessary to bring the structures up to modern requirements.

Other Foods

Other foods examined and found unfit for human consumption :—

3 tins Meat	6 tins Evaporated Milk
6 tins Fruit	1 tin Beans

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1949-1954-.

Licences issued during the year are as under :

West Wylam and Prudhoe Co-op. Society Branches :

Bellingham { Pasteurised, Sterilised and
Wark { Tuberculin Tested.
Falstone {

W. Hogg, Fourstones — retails in the area — Pasteurised
and Tuberculin Tested.

G. Craghill, Wark — retails Tuberculin Tested.

M. Slassor, Ridsdale — retails Sterilised.

J. M. Robson, Newcastleton — retails Tuberculin Tested.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955-56.

Some 56 premises in the area come within the scope of this legislation. Regular and systematic inspection is maintained. In each community many owners who are alive to the desirability of modern hygiene practices have reconditioned their premises. This has a positive psychological effect on others where resistance has been experienced and are not "food hygiene conscious."

Food Premises : The following are the types of food premises in the district :

Bakeries	..	..	..	..	2
Butchers	..	..	..	..	5
Cafes ..	..	..	..	..	7
Clubs	..	..	..	..	4
General Dealers (Grocers, etc.)				..	18
Public Houses		..	..	..	11
School Kitchens		..	..	..	9

RIVERS AND STREAMS

Five cases were reported where nuisances through pollution were caused. Informal representation resolved these problems.

SUMMARY OF WORK EFFECTED

	By Informal Action	By Statutory Notice	Total
SANITARY CONVENIENCES :			
Privies and privy ashpits abolished ..	26	—	26
Water closets provided	26	—	26
Number of above for which grant was given (P.H.A. 1936, Sec. 47)	1	—	1
Sanitary bins provided	19	—	19
DRAINAGE :			
New drains constructed	26	—	26
Drains repaired or reconstructed ..	24	—	24
Additional gullies provided	264	—	264
Old gullies replaced	40	—	40
Scullery sinks provided	56	—	56
Scullery waste pipes repaired	28	—	28
Scullery waste pipes trapped	9	—	9
Yards repaired or reconstructed ..	27	—	27

INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Housing :

Demolition	10
Improvements and Repairs	407
Verminous premises.. ..	5
Water Supply	81
Drainage	276
Factories and Workshops	26
Licensed Premises	56
Refuse Collection and Disposal ..	264
Rodent Control	27
Infectious Disease	10
Slaughterhouses	527
Shops	319
Fishmongers (vans)	12
Bakeries	87

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959.

Part I of the Act.

I.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

PREMISES (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	38	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	18	27	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	30	65	—	—

II.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases").

PARTICULARS (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1.) ...	7	7	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7)	—	—	—	—	—
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work ...	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	10	10	—	—	—

Part VII of the Act. Sections 110 and 111.

Outwork.

This part is not applicable to this Rural Area.

Continuing progress is recorded in the field of environmental hygiene during the year under review. Thanks are due to the high degree of teamwork in the Department and the active co-operation of the members of the Council.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

S. CLOUGH.

Senior Public Health Inspector.

